

I support media diversity

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. Regulating to restrain monopoly precisely defines the role that government must play in a free, democratic society, and the FCC should be directing its efforts in that direction rather than vice versa. Deregulation as now proposed promises the fulfillment of such dystopic nightmares as foreseen by Orwell and Huxley. What the FCC is indeed proposing is a media of one voice--Big Brother--the guardian angel of corporate consumerism that will tolerate no ideology but its own, that denies humanity its humanity and reduces all to slugs that live to feed on offal.

If the founders of the United States had an idea of government such as that put forth by today's rampant purveyors of "free trade," I suspect they would have spent far less time hashing over affairs in Philadelphia; I doubt there would have been a written constitution. What they did grasp was a fundamental concept that government rightfully exists to serve individuals, inherently dignified by human birthright, living in local and larger communities, and that such service above all constitutes the protection of individuals from that corruption that inevitably occurs wherever power is concentrated. The letters and the pamphlets that circulated in these revolutionary circles were the very antithesis of the corporatist monopoly of media that powerful forces are seeking to unleash, hand-in-hand with the FCC's defaulting on its public service mission.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding, then looking to counter those consolidating tendencies cropping up over the last twenty years--requiring that news actually be delivered in the public interest, protecting children from the Skinnerian conditioning techniques actively and deliberately inflicted upon them by advertisers, supporting non-commercial alternative media outlets--there is no shortage of that about which the public servants of the FCC might busy themselves. In the meantime, open up these current proposals to public scrutiny. Hold hearings, respect and serve the citizenry, and keep commercial interests in a legitimate perspective. Ideas are too important to be enslaved to market ideology.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank you,

Lori Chilton